

PRE

3. To throw to the bottom. A term of chymistry opposed to sublime.

Gold endures a vehement fire long without any change, and after it has been divided by corrolive liquors into invilible parts, yet may presently be precipitated, so as to appear again in its own form. *Grew's Cofmol.*

To PRECIPITATE. *v. n.*

1. To fall headlong.
Had'st thou been aught but goss'mer feathers,
So many fathom down precipitating,
Thoud'st shiver like an egg. *Shakesp. King Lear.*

2. To fall to the bottom as a sediment.
By strong water every metal will precipitate. *Bacon.*

3. To hasten without just preparation.
Neither did the rebels spoil the country, neither on the other side did their forces encrease, which might hasten him to precipitate and assail them. *Bacon.*

PRECIPITATE. *adj.* [from the verb.]

1. Steeply falling.
Barcephas faith, it was necessary this paradise should be set at such a height, because the four rivers, had they not fallen so precipitate, could not have had sufficient force to thrust themselves under the great ocean. *Raleigh.*

- When the full stores their antient bounds disdain,
Precipitate the furious torrent flows;
In vain would speed avoid, or strength oppose. *Prior.*

2. Headlong; hasty; rashly hasty.
The archbishop, too precipitate in pressing the reception of that which he thought a reformation, paid dearly for it. *Clarendon.*

3. Hasty; violent.
Mr. Gay died of a mortification of the bowels; it was the most precipitate case I ever knew, having cut him off in three days. *Pope to Swift.*

PRECIPITATE. *n. f.* A corrosive medicine made by precipitating mercury.

As the scar separated, I rubb'd the super-excrecence of flesh with the vitriol-stone, or sprinkled it with precipitate. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

PRECIPITATELY. *adv.* [from precipitate.]

1. Headlong; steeply down.
2. Hastily; in blind hurry.

It may happen to those who vent praise or censure too precipitately, as it did to an English poet, who celebrated a nobleman for erecting Dryden's monument, upon a promise which he forgot, till it was done by another. *Swift.*

Not so bold Arnall; with a weight of scull
Furious he links, precipitately dall. *Pope's Dunciad.*

PRECIPITATION. *n. f.* [precipitation, Fr. from precipitate.]

1. The act of throwing headlong.
Let them pile ten hills on the Tarpeian rock,
That the precipitation might down-stretch
Below the beam of fight, yet will I still
Be this to them. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*

2. Violent motion downward.
That could never happen from any other cause than the hurry, precipitation and rapid motion of the water, returning at the end of the deluge, towards the sea. *Woodward.*

3. Tumultuous hurry; blind haste.
Here is none of the hurry and precipitation, none of the blustering and violence, which must have attended those supposititious changes. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

4. In chemistry, Subsidency: contrary to sublimation.
Separation is wrought by precipitation or sublimation; that is, a calling of the parts up or down, which is a kind of attraction. *Bacon.*

The precipitation of the vegetative matter, after the deluge, and the burying it in the strata underneath amongst the sand, was to retrench the luxury of the productions of the earth, which had been so ungratefully abused by its former inhabitants. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*

PRECIPITOUS. *adj.* [precipites, Lat.]

1. Headlong; steep.
Monarchy, together with me, could not but be dashed in pieces by such a precipitous fall as they intended. *K. Charles.*

2. Hasty; sudden.
Though the attempts of some have been precipitous, and their enquiries so audacious as to have lost themselves in attempts above humanity, yet have the enquiries of most deflected by the way. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

How precious the time 'is, how precipitous the occasion, how many things to be done in their just season, after once a ground is in order. *Evelyn's Kalendar.*

3. Rath; heady.
Thus fram'd for ill, he loos'd our triple hold,
Advice unsafe, precipitous and bold. *Dryden.*

PRECISE. *adj.* [precis, Fr. precisus, Lat.]

1. Exact; strict; nice; having strict and determinate limitations.
Means more durable to preserve the laws of God from oblivion and corruption grew in use, not without precise direction from God himself. *Hooker, b. i.*

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You'll not bear a letter for me; you stand upon your honour; why, thou unconfinable baseless, it is as much as I can do to keep the term of mine honour precise. *Shakesp.*

The state hath given you licence to stay on land six weeks, and let it not trouble you if your occasions ask farther time; for the law in this point is not precise. *Bacon.*

Let us defend from this top
Of speculation; for the hour precise

Exacts our parting. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xiii.*
In human actions there are no degrees and precise natural limits described, but a latitude is indulged. *Taylor.*

The reasonings must be precise, though the practice may admit of great latitude. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

The precise difference between a compound and collective idea is this, that a compound idea unites things of a different kind, but a collective, things of the same kind. *Watt.*

2. Formal; finical; solemnly and superstitiously exact.
The raillery of the wits in king Charles the Second's reign, upon every thing which they called precise, was carried to so great an extravagance, that it almost put all Christianity out of countenance. *Addison.*

PRECISELY. *adv.* [from precise.]

1. Exactly; nicely; accurately.
Doth it follow, that all things in the church, from the greatest to the least, are unholy, which the Lord hath not himself precisely instituted? *Hooker, b. v.*

When the Lord had once precisely set down a form of executing that wherein we are to serve him, the fault appeareth greater to do that which we are not, than not to do that which we are commanded. *Hooker, b. ii.*

He knows,
He cannot so precisely weed this land,
As his misdoubts present occasion,
His foes are so enrooted with his friends. *Shakesp.*

Where more of these orders than one shall be set in several stories, there must be an exquisite care to place the columns precisely one over another. *Wotton's Architecture.*

In his tract my wary feet have slept,
His undeclined ways precisely kept. *Sandys.*

The rule, to find the age of the moon, cannot shew precisely an exact account of the moon, because of the inequality of the motions of the sun and of the moon. *Haller.*

Measuring the diameter of the fifth dark circle, I found it the fifth part of an inch precisely. *Newton's Opticks.*

2. With superstitious formality; with too much scrupulosity; with troublesome ceremony.
PRECISENESS. *n. f.* [from precise.] Exactness; rigid nicety.

I will distinguish the cases; though give me leave, in the handling of them, not to fever them with too much preciseness. *Bacon.*

When you have fixed proper hours for particular studies, keep to them, not with a superstitious preciseness, but with some good degrees of a regular constancy. *Watt.*

PRECISION. *n. f.* [from precise.] Exact limitation.
1. One who limits or restrains.

Though love use reason for his precisian, he admits him not for his counsellor. *Shakesp. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

2. One who is superstitiously rigorous.
A profane person calls a man of piety a precisian. *Watt.*

PRECISION. *n. f.* [precision, Fr.] Exact limitation.
He that thinks of being in general, thinks never of any particular species of being; unless he can think of it with and without precision at the same time. *Locke.*

I have left out the utmost precisions of fractions in these computations as not necessary; these whole numbers shewing well enough the difference of the value of guineas. *Locke.*

I was unable to treat this part more in detail, without sacrificing perspicuity to ornament, without wandering from the precision or breaking the chain of reasoning. *Pope.*

PRECISIVE. *adj.* [from precisus, Lat.] Exactly limiting, by cutting off all that is not absolutely relative to the present purpose.

Precisive abstraction is when we consider those things apart, which cannot really exist apart; as when we consider modes, without considering its substance or subject. *Watt.*

To PRECLUDE. *v. a.* [præcludo, Lat.] To shut out or hinder by some anticipation.

This much will obviate and preclude the objections of our adversaries, that we do not determine the final cause of the systematical parts of the world, merely as they have respect to the exigencies or conveniences of life. *Bentley.*

If you once allow them such an acceptance of chance, you have precluded yourself from any more reasoning against them. *Bentley's Sermons.*

I fear there will be no way left to tell you, that I entirely esteem you; none but that which no bills can preclude, and no king can prevent.

PRECOCIOUS. *adj.* [præcois, Lat. præcois, Fr.] Ripe before the time.
Many præcocious trees, and such as have their spring in the winter, may be found in moist parts. *Brown.*

PRECOITY.

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PRECOITY. *n. f.* [from præcoisus.] Ripeness before the time.

Some impute the cause of his fall to a præcoity of spirit and valour in him; and that therefore some infectious southern air did blast him. *Howel's Vocal Forest.*

To PRECOGITATE. *v. a.* [præcogito, Lat.] To consider or scheme beforehand.

PRECOGNITION. *n. f.* [præ and cognitio, Lat.] Previous knowledge; antecedent examination.

PRECONCERT. *n. f.* [præ and conceit.] An opinion previously formed.

A thing in reason impossible, which notwithstanding through their misfashioned preconceit, appeared unto them no less certain than if nature had written it in the very foreheads of all the creatures. *Hooker.*

To PRECONCEIVE. *v. a.* [præ and conceive.] To form an opinion beforehand; to imagine beforehand.

In a dead plain the way seemeth the longer, because the eye hath preconceived it shorter than the truth; and the frustrations of that maketh it seem so. *Bacon.*

Fondness of preconceived opinions is not like to render your reports suspect, nor for want of sagacity or care, defective. *Clarendon's Scip.*

The reason why men are so weak in governing is, because most things fall out accidentally, and come not into any compliance with their preconceived ends, but they are forced to comply subsequently. *South's Sermons.*

PRECONCEPTION. *n. f.* [præ and conception.] Opinion previously formed.

Custom with most men prevails more than truth, according to the notions and preconceptions, which it hath formed in our minds, we shape the discourse of reason itself. *Hakewill.*

PRECONTRACT. *n. f.* [præ and contract.] This was formerly accented on the last syllable. A contract previous to another.

He is your husband on a precontract;
To bring you thus together, 'tis no sin. *Shakesp.*

To PRECONTRACT. *v. a.* [præ and contract.] To contract or bargain beforehand.

Some are such as a man cannot make his wife, though he himself be unmarried, because they are already precontracted to some other; or else are in too near a degree of affinity or consanguinity. *Ayliffe.*

PRECURSE. *n. f.* [from præcurro, Lat.] Forerunning.

The like præcurse of fierce events,
As harbingers preceding still the fates,
And prologue to the omen coming on,
Have heaven and earth together demonstrated. *Shakesp. Tempest.*

PRECURSOR. *n. f.* [præcursor, Lat. præcursor, Fr.] Forerunner; harbinger.

Of dreadful thunder claps, more momentary
Were not. *Shakesp. Tempest.*

This contagion might have been prefiged upon consideration of its præcursors, viz. a rude winter, and a close, fulphurous and fiery air. *Harvey on the Plague.*

Thomas Burnet played the præcursor to the coming of Homer in his Homericides. *Pope.*

PREDACEOUS. *adj.* [from præda, Lat.] Living by prey.

As those are endowed with poison, because they are predaceous; so these need it not, because their food is near at hand, and may be obtained without contest. *Derham.*

PREDAL. *adj.* [from præda, Lat.] Robbing; practising plunder. This word is not countenanced from analogy.

Sarmatia, laid by predal rapine low,
Mourn'd the hard yoke, and sought relief in vain. *Sa. Bayle.*

PREDATORY. *adj.* [predatorius, Lat. from præda, Lat.]

1. Plundering; practising rapine.
The king called his parliament, where he exaggerated the malice and the cruel predatory war made by Scotland. *Bacon.*

2. Hungry; preying; rapacious; ravenous.
The evils that come of exercise are, that it maketh the spirits more hot and predatory. *Bacon.*

PREDECEASED. *adj.* [præ and decessed.] Dead before.

Will you mock at an ancient tradition, began upon an honourable respect, and worn as a memorable trophy of predeceased valour. *Shakesp. Henry V.*

PREDECESSOR. *n. f.* [predecessor, Fr. præ and decessus, Lat.]

1. One that was in any state or place before another.
In these pastoral pastimes, a great many days were spent to follow their flying predecessors. *Sidney.*

There is cause, why we should be slow and unwilling to change, without very urgent necessity, the ancient ordinances, rites and long approved customs of our venerable predecessors. *Hooker.*

If I seem partial to my predecessor in the laurel, the friends of antiquity are not few. *Dryden.*

The present pope, who is well acquainted with the secret history, and the weakness of his predecessor, seems resolved to bring the project to its perfection. *Addison.*

The more beauteous Close sat to thee,
Good Howard, emulous of Apelles' art;
But happy thou from Cupid's arrow free,
And flames that pierc'd thy predecessor's heart. *Prior.*

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2. Ancestors.

PREDESTINARIAN. *n. f.* [from predestinate.] One that holds the doctrine of predestination.

Why does the predestinarian so adventurously climb into heaven, to ransack the celestial archives, read God's hidden decrees, when with less labour he may secure an authentic transcript within himself. *Decay of Piety.*

To PREDESTINATE. *v. a.* [predeslinare, Fr. præ and destinare, Lat.] To appoint beforehand by irreversible decree.

Some gentleman or other shall scape a predestinate scratcht face. *Shakesp. Lear.*

Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conform'd to the image of his son. *Romans viii. 29.*

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself. *Eph. i. 5.*

To PREDESTINATE. *v. n.* To hold predestination. In ludicrous language.

His ruff crest he rears,
And pricks up his predestinating ears. *Dryden.*

PREDESTINATION. *n. f.* [predeslinatio, Fr. from predestinate.] Fatal decree; pre-ordination.

Predestination we can difference no otherwise from providence and prescience, than this, that prescience only foreseeth, providence foreseeth and careth for, and hath respect to all creatures, and predestination is only of men; and yet not of all to men belonging, but of their salvation properly in the common use of divines; or perdition, as some have used it. *Raleigh's Hist. of the World.*

Nor can they justly accuse
Their maker, or their making, or their fate;
As if predestination over-ru'd
Their will, dispos'd by absolute decree,
Or high fore-knowledge. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iii.*

PREDESTINATOR. *n. f.* [from predestinate.] One that holds predestination or the prevalence of pre-established necessity.

Me, mine example let the Stoicks use,
Their sad and cruel doctrine to maintain;
Let all predestinators me produce,
Who struggle with eternal fate in vain. *Cowley.*

To PREDESTINE. *v. a.* [præ and destine.] To decree beforehand.

Ye careful angels, whom eternal fate
Ordains on earth and human ads to wait,
Who turn with secret pow'r this restless ball,
And bid predestin'd empires rise and fall. *Prior.*

PREDETERMINATION. *n. f.* [predetermination, Fr. præ and determination.] Determination made beforehand.

This predetermination of God's own will is so far from being the determining of ours, that it is distinctly the contrary; for supposing God to predetermine that I shall act freely; 'tis certain from thence, that my will is free in respect of God, and not predetermined. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*

To PREDETERMINE. *v. a.* [præ and determinare.] To doom or confine by previous decree.

We see in brutes certain sensible instincts antecedent to their imaginative faculty, whereby they are predetermined to the convenience of the sensible life. *Hale.*

PREDIAL. [predium, Lat.] Consisting of farms.

By the civil law, their predial estates are liable to fiscal payments and taxes, as not being appropriated for the service of divine worship, but for profane uses. *Ayliffe.*

PREDICABLE. *adj.* [predicabilis, Fr. predicabilis, Lat.] Such as may be affirmed of something.

PREDICABLE. *n. f.* [predicabile, Lat.] A logical term, denoting one of the five things which can be affirmed of any thing.

These they call the five predicables; because every thing that is affirmed concerning any being, must be the genus, species, difference, some property or accident. *Watts.*

PREDICAMENT. *n. f.* [predicament, Fr. predicamentum, Lat.]

1. A class or arrangement of beings or substances ranked according to their natures: called also categorema or category. *Harris.*

If there were nothing but bodies to be ranked by them in the predicament of place, then that description would be allowed by them as sufficient. *Digby on Bodies.*

2. Class or kind described by any definitive marks.
The offender's life lies in the mercy
Of the duke only, 'gainst all other voice;
In which predicament I say thou stand'st. *Shakesp.*

I shew the line and the predicament,
Wherein you range under this subtle king. *Shakesp.*

PREDICAMENTAL. *adj.* [from predicament.] Relating to predicaments.

PREDICANT. *n. f.* [predicans, Lat.] One that affirms any thing.

To PREDICATE. *v. a.* [predico, Lat.] To affirm any thing of another thing.

All propositions, wherein a part of the complex idea, which any term stands for, is predicated of that term, are only verbal; *v. g.* to say that gold is a metal. *Locke.*

To PREDICATE.